

# **Survey of Changes in Irrigation Methods and Fertilizer Management Practices in California**

**FREP Contract # 96-0371**

## **Project Leader**

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## **Objectives**

1. Conduct a survey to quantify changes in irrigation and fertilizer management from 1986 to 1996.
2. Identify crops and geographic regions where most change has occurred.
3. Characterize associated changes in fertilization methods (i.e. frequency of application, delivery system, and fertilizer monitoring and assessment techniques) with changes in irrigation technology.
4. Write a report available to the general public on the results of the survey.

## **Summary**

The project provided funding for the UC Cooperative Extension- Tulare County office to publish a year-long series of newsletter focusing on fertilizer N use efficiency. Four issues of a special document "*Nitrogen Digest*" were published, covering issues such as the effects of N on crop quality, foliar fertilization, N fixation and cover cropping. Sixteen articles pertaining to N or nitrate management in various commodities were also published in individual commodity newsletters. A telephone survey of 201 participants was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of the project. In general, survey results indicated that the information was understandable, useful and had some influence on management practices. Seventy-eight percent of the survey respondents recalled receiving the *Nitrogen Digest*, and 33% of them changed, modified or adapted their fertilization practices.